

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. **Proposed Action(s)**

Designate the GSM as an ACEC. (Map 2).

Implement the management plan as outlined below for the proposed ACEC after designation.

1. Management Objectives

- a. Manage wildlife habitat to favor a diversity of game and non-game species.
- b. Protect crucial and high priority habitat from encroachment by incompatible uses.
- c. Protect all TES species habitats.

2. Specific Objectives (By Order of Priority)

a. Threatened/Endangered & Sensitive Species

(1). Obtain an inventory of distribution, limiting factors, reproductive rates and other information needed to properly manage the habitat for TES species. At present, this includes the least chub, spotted frog, species of dace, and Great Basin silverspot butterfly.

b. Riparian/Wetland Habitat

(1). Determine if improvement in riparian habitat is occurring in the riparian area located within the enclosure.

(2). Complete a thorough botanical inventory and vegetation map of GSM by FY 1994.

3. Planned Actions (To Implement Objectives)

a. Threatened/Endangered & Sensitive Species

(1). Initiate two Challenge/Cost share proposals annually to study the least chub and spotted frog. Establish master files by species in the area office that will measure the progress towards meeting the objective listed in 2.a. above.

(2). Request additional Challenge/Cost share funding annually of at least \$2,000 each for studies on the daces and spotted frog, with the priority as listed. Establish master files by species in the area office that will measure the progress towards meeting the objective listed in 2.a. above.

(3). Write and implement two activity plans annually for the TES species until all the species listed have been covered.

(4). Compile an Element Stewardship Abstract on the Great Basin silverspot butterfly in FY 1993.

(5). Identify and permanently mark all springs and seeps by number within the ACEC by 1996. There would be a standardized system referenced to previous studies.

(6). Implement the collection methods and techniques listed in the BIO-WEST monitoring plan dated July 1989, for the species to be collected.

(7). Commencing in June 1992, hold an annual coordination meeting to review progress on meeting management plan objectives and to set further goals.

b. Riparian/Wetland Habitat

(1). Place trend (3'X 3') plots and photo points in the enclosure located in GSM and complete them annually to determine if improvement in the riparian habitat is occurring. Any new enclosures constructed will also have trend plots placed in them. Place the results of the studies in the riparian habitat inventory file located in the HERRA office.

(2). Obtain an analysis on the sensitivity of GSM to large-scale groundwater extraction off-site.

(3). Mark the private land boundaries located adjacent to the ACEC on the ground to avoid inadvertent trespass.

(4). Request a botanical inventory of the GSM area be conducted either by the Richfield District botanist or under Challenge/Cost share funding by FY 1994.

4. Evaluation and Monitoring

The following are the methods that will be used to evaluate and monitor the progress or fulfillment of each of the planned actions:

a. Threatened/Endangered & Sensitive Species

(1). A staff report will be completed annually detailing the results of the studies for least chub, dace species and spotted frog, plus recommendations for the following year. The reports will be placed in the species file in the HRRRA office.

(2). The Nature Conservancy will ensure that review copies of the Element Stewardship Abstract for the silverspot butterfly are provided to BLM staff for review and use.

(3). A copy of the activity plans will be placed in the appendix of this plan.

(4). Review all proposed studies for the ACEC to ensure conformance to the BIO-WEST plan.

(5). Complete a staff report summarizing the results of each annual meeting and send a copy to each attendee.

b. Riparian/Wetland Habitat

(1). A staff report will be completed annually on the results of the studies within the enclosure, and placed in the riparian habitat inventory file located in the HRRRA office.

(2). A copy of the results of the groundwater sensitivity analysis will be placed in the appendix of this plan, and it will receive attention on the agenda of the next annual meeting.

(3). Complete an annual inspection of the grey fence posts marking the boundaries of the adjacent private land to ensure that they are in place.

(4). Place a copy of the inventory results in the appendix of this plan.